9-12-14

Welcome back Monarchs

THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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Financial aid cheats in the crosshairs

■ **City College fines spur new policy.**

BY AMANDA CAVARRETTA
STAFF WRITER

After Los Angeles City College was fined hundreds of thousands of dollars for failing to police financial aid policy, Los Angeles Valley College has initiated changes to its drop policy in order to address the same issue.

"The entire district is cracking down," said Josh Miller, Academic Senate President of Valley and Speech Communication professor

Financial aid money is disbursed to students in two installments. If a student stops attending, whether before or after they collect their disbursement, they could be liable to pay that money back.

"We're instituting a second drop deadline." Miller said. "What they want us to do is take roll and that will indicate on that roster when the student stopped showing up."

At a faculty orientation, Miller informed instructors that there will be a second exclusion roster (verifying their enrollment later in the semester) which will help prevent Valley from getting fined and suffering the same fate as it sister college, LA City.

"The issue is that these students were given F's, but didn't earn those F's. They are getting F's because they stopped showing up, and that's a violation of financial aid," Professor Miller stated.

Students who abuse financial aid by collecting their checks, but not actually attending their classes, will realize that practice won't work any more. Valley College will adopt a new policy this semester that prevents such abuses from happening.

Ashley Dunn, LAVC registrar, said that while a new drop policy is not yet developed, it is in the works. "We're getting it together, and the district is working on changes that will allow the faculty to make that exclusion," Dunn said. "It should be available this semester."

This likely means that attendance will become a major factor for the faculty in order to prevent student abuse of financial aid. "I personally don't like having to take roll, but now I know I have to," said Miller.

AT THEVALLEYSTAR.

■ **Valley College updates protocol for dealing with shooting threats.**

■ **Preview of Valley Football 2014 season.**

FALL FORWARD

AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES / VALLEY STAR
A new semester has begun for more than 19,000 Valley College students.

Hail to the new chief

■ **Valley College's new president takes the plunge.**

BY KATHERINE O'ROURKE AND JASEL RICO
STAFF WRITERS

Dr. Erika Endrijonas met with Valley Star reporters on September 8 to introduce herself to the campus, the faculty, and the students.

Q: When did you first discover that education was your passion?

A: My first year as an undergrad at Cal State Northridge, I was taking an American History class. After my first exam, the faculty member met with me, hoping I was a history major. I told him I was a journalism major and he set out to change my mind. Realizing that journalism was not for me and having this amazing faculty member mentor me is what made the transition.

Q: What kind of assistance are you looking for from faculty and students?

A: The biggest thing students can do to help is to make sure they have seen a counselor, to get an education plan, and show up for the classes you're registered in. The second is that you're struggling, ask for help. I've encouraged the faculty to drop no-shows, add students waiting to get in, and refer struggling students to tutoring, early and often.

Q: You're involved in Achieving the Dream. What is this and how can it help in community colleges?

A: Achieving the Dream is a nationwide effort to look into achievement gaps. Once you figure out that a particular subset of students isn't performing as well as the next, then it's up to you to figure out how to help those students do better.

Q: When you were first brought to Valley, the college was, and still is, having problems with its accreditation. Could you give us a brief overview of what accreditation is and its relevance to Valley College?

A: The United States Department of Education has certain criteria that all colleges need to meet. If Valley is not regionally accredited, we can't dispense federal financial aid. Right now, Valley is on warning sanction due to budgetary issues. While we're on warning, we are accredited. My goal is to get us back into full accreditation status. We can only be on warning for two years.

The second issue is that the entire district is going through a comprehensive accreditation in March 2016. So my focus for the first six months will be addressing our financial issues so that we can address those accreditation issues.

Q: What is the PASS team and how will they help Valley students finish college?

A: The whole idea is that the more prepared students are with basic level classes, the better prepared they'll be when they start taking classes in their major. One of the things I've worked on developing here is what's called "intrusive counseling." We should have opportunities to interact with students when they reach benchmarks. Sometimes, it really just takes a bit of encouragement.

Dr. Endrijonas will soon be post office hours to meet with anyone with questions. Her office is in Admin 1 near the school pool.

JASEL RICO / VALLEY STAR
Former Oxnard Executive Vice President and accreditation expert Dr. Erika Endrijonas has taken the reins at Valley College.

CCaTT computer lab moved

The Center for Career and Technical Training (CCaTT) lab, formerly located in the Business/Journalism building, has been moved.

Students can now find the lab on the second floor of the library.

Computer lab hours are from 7am to 9pm.

Student smoker draws law enforcement

■ **Student with e-cigarette in non-smoking area gets attention from seven law enforcement representatives, but no incident report.**

BY THE VALLEY STAR STAFF

A Valley College student was detained last week by at least seven campus law enforcement representatives outside of the Business / Journalism building.

At around 11:15 a.m., three cadets confronted a male student smoking a vapor pen in a non-smoking area, according to witnesses.

The student was then approached by campus security, which made a semi-circle around him. Two deputies arrived shortly thereafter.

The student was smoking an electronic cigarette in a non-smoking area, which is against The Los Angeles Community College District rules. Curious Monarchs with their phones in hand, attempting to record the incident, were motioned away by authorities.

The student was eventually escorted to class, and student declined to speak with the Star.

Authorities stated that they would file a police report later in the week. However, Deputy Frank Velasco stated that the incident did not rise to the level of a police report.

Deputy Velasco met with a Valley Star reporter six days offer the incident, providing a few details.

Deputy Dennis Marmolejo said that the student was trying to argue that the district policy does not cover electronic cigarettes, but they were recently included in the board rules.

Jennifer Fung Borucki, manager of public relations for Valley, said, "There was no incident to report ... it was a situation where someone was smoking in a non-designated smoking area."

No incident reports have been filed by Valley Sheriffs since Aug. 7.

Textbook examples of ways to save cash

■ **Book costs don't have to weigh students down.**

BY MARY GAIL LEE AYOS
STAFF WRITER

Purchasing over priced textbooks every semester is one of the most exasperating things college students go through. Along with tuition, textbook prices are increasing at a steady rate; students must be informed on cost-efficient ways to purchase textbooks. Buying books through college bookstores may be convenient but expensive; the difference in price range for textbooks at a bookstore and online sources may range from forty to seventy percent off.

"College textbooks prices are 812 percent higher than they were a little more than three decades ago," the American Enterprise Institute reports.

From purchasing used textbooks, renting, or even downloading eBooks, these options allow Valley students to save some money. Retailers such as Barnes & Noble, Amazon, eBay, and local bookstores, offer great deals for new, used, and rented textbooks. With access to sign up for coupons via e-mail, store deals, and promotions, students can add additional savings onto their purchase.

When purchasing books, it is best to research and compare prices from different retailers. Sites such as bookfinder4u.com, cheapesttextbooks.com, bigwords.com, campusbooks.com, and dealoz.com, compare online sources and retailers that provide the same textbook for different prices. They also provide the total value and quality of the textbooks to determine the cost, whether it is a rental or a purchased book.

A majority of the books accessible for rentals are marked down from forty to ninety percent off; retail prices are accompanied with low to free shipping. Companies that allow rentals lend students the textbooks they need for a set period of time and give a specific deadline for when the textbooks must be returned. Renting textbooks allows students to use hard cover textbooks without having to worry about buy backs for multiple textbooks and high prices every semester.

According to PR Newswire, "[students] saved $16 million in 2008 by renting books from chegg.com."

Technology buffs will benefit from the new eBooks many retails offer. Students can directly download their textbooks onto their mobile devices, iPads, Kindles, and any Android devices for a fraction of the cost. Amazon and textbooks.com are just two out of many retailers that are offering e-textbook purchases and rentals. The Kindle company states that students may be able to save as much as 80 percent off of textbook prices.

Some retailers may charge shipping, handling, and other fees. Students may extend their rentals to a maximum of 125 days per textbook.

If students are not able to find the required textbooks through different sources, the college bookstore is more than likely to have it. Whether buying or renting, the bookstore is sure to have the materials accessible to all students.

OPINION

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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Public indicts Ray Rice and NFL

New footage of Ray Rice striking his wife puts him, NFL, under fire.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
SPORTS EDITOR

Public perception is, has been, and will always be, reality. It is also why the National Football League is under attack and former Baltimore Ravens Running Back Ray Rice is now unemployed, both justifiably so.

On Feb. 15, Ray Rice and his then-fiancée, now wife, Janay Palmer, were both arrested and charged with assault after a physical altercation at Revel Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Footage from the lobby of the Casino was released by TMZ shortly after news broke about Rice's arrest, showing the star NFL player dragging Palmer's lifeless body out of an elevator. Luckily for Rice however, at that time there was no video evidence available to the public showing exactly what happened in that elevator, yet.

Five months later on July 25, Ray Rice was given seemingly a slap on the wrist by the NFL when he was suspended just two games, causing the first real uproar from the public.

The mayhem only magnified just weeks later when NFL Wide Receiver Josh Gordon was suspended by the NFL for an entire season after testing positive for marijuana for the third time.

Appalling.

Ray Rice had gotten off the hook after throwing one at his girlfriend.

To make matters worse, Palmer even cited her own guilt in the matter, as if there was something that she did that warranted her being knocked out by a man with tree trunks for forearms.

"I do deeply regret the role that I played in the incident that night," said Palmer at a May 25 Ravens press conference with Rice. "I love Ray, and I know that he will continue to prove himself to not only you all, but [to] the community, and I know he will gain your respect back in due time."

But again, the public's only main problem with this situation arose when NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell issued Rice a slight two-game suspension. The publics outcry only came about because it was in comparison to other recent player suspensions. Not because domestic violence was just so flagrant that it warranted a heftier punishment.

That was until 1 a.m. on Sept. 8 when TMZ released footage from what happened in the elevator between Rice and Palmer.

The video shows the couple entering the elevator, obviously having a disagreement of some matter. Then Rice proceeds to taunt Palmer by nudging his head at her within close range of her face, when she finally gets fed up and raises her hand to strike him. But anticipating her hit, Rice was quickly able to deliver a cruel, vicious punch to the side of her head, sending her crashing into a metal railing inside of the elevator, knocking her out of consciousness.

The video going viral sent the media and everyone alike, into an absolute frenzy, and ultimately sparking the Ravens and Commissioner Goodell to take action just 13 hours later.

Did people not know what someone getting punched unconscious looked like?

Or was it that people who have never experienced a domestic violence incident thought it was less traumatic of an event than what happened between Rice and his girlfriend?

Whatever the reason was, actually seeing the entire scene of what really happened made the incident much more real to viewers, rather than just relying on their imagination.

For example, a vast majority of Americans have been clamoring for nearly a decade now to bring home all troops in the Middle East where according to icasualties.org, roughly 6,700 U.S. soldiers have died in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001.

But ironically, in the four short years that World War II occurred, nearly half a million U.S. soldiers were killed in action. However, one would be hard-pressed to find an American during that period who did not support their troops in combat as movies, commercials, and any kinds of sales at the time were all promoting that war.

The difference between then and now? The public can actually see everything that is going on overseas which sprouts the gut-wrenching reactions of what war is really like, turning their perception into reality.

The public is now experiencing a similar circumstance with Ray Rice and domestic violence.

Now as a result of the public outcry, the Ravens felt enough pressure to terminate Rice's contract, and the NFL to suspend him indefinitely.

In addition, the Associated Press reported Wednesday that the NFL office received the video showing Ray Rice punching then-fiancee in the elevator, which Commissioner Goodell had denied ever seeing earlier in the week. The report also says that police sent the report in April, at the NFL's request, but again the league denied ever receiving it. Even ESPN reporters Chris Mortensen, Adam Schefter, and Jane McManus were told by "league sources" about the nuances of the video, which they all reported on on more than one occasion.

"There is not a lot the league can say, at this point, to undo the wrong that has been done here. The league got this wrong," said Schefter live on ESPN's SportsCenter the morning of Sept. 8. "This is arguably the biggest black eye the league has ever had."

Would all of the subsequent actions have occurred if the new footage had not have been released? Probably not.

But public perception and it's impact is undefeated, and now Ray Rice and the NFL is paying the price.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: Are the increased Metro prices going to affect Monarchs daily trips to Valley College?

Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

Campus Sherriffs should wear body cameras to monitor conduct

Body-worn cameras improve citizen-police relations; but are they practical for Valley College?

BY AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the fatal shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown, the Ferguson, Missouri Police Department adopted body-worn cameras to monitor the officers' actions, something that should be implemented in every police department.

Examining the facts, would the death of Brown and the series of events that followed had been prevented if Darren Wilson, the police officer who shot Brown, had been wearing a body camera on his uniform?

There have been different incidents that had included officer-involved shootings in the nation and California, like the 1991 Rodney King brutal beating, the 2009 Oscar Grant homicide, or even last year's fatal shooting of a dog in front of a crowd. Would these men and dog still be alive?

"I think they should," said Yadira Villarreal, a Valley College student. "That way if something happens like how recently cops being killing people, if they have the cameras on them, we can see what really happens."

One of the few law enforcement departments that have adopted the use of body cameras is Rialto, Calif., a small, working-class city located in the San Bernardino foothills outside Los Angeles.

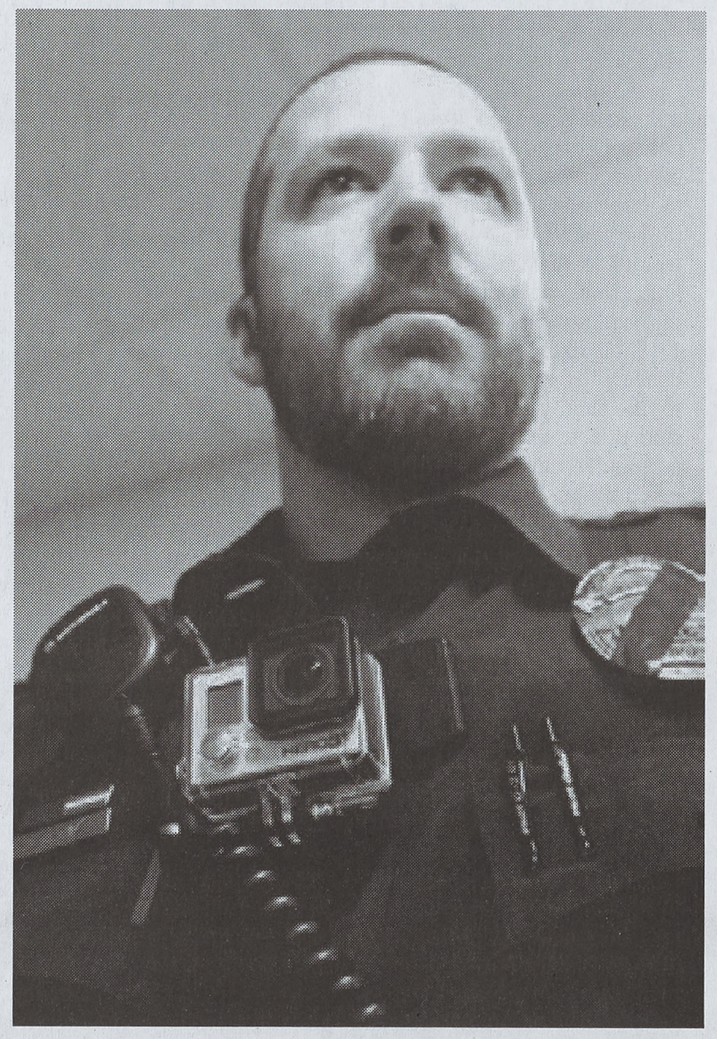
According to an article by The Guardian, "... Rialto's randomized controlled study has seized attention because it offers scientific – and encouraging – findings: after cameras were introduced in February 2012, public complaints against officers plunged 88% compared with the previous 12 months. Officers' use of force fell by 60%."

Because of massive media coverage of the Ferguson events, the whole nation now knows that state and local police departments are upgrading to new gadgets and military weapons that are only used in war. Through photographs of the riots, armored personnel carriers were seen patrolling St. Louis with officers clad in Kevlar vests, helmets, and camouflage, armed with pistols, shotguns, automatic rifles, and tear gas.

"Every year, the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Justice funnel billions worth of dollars and military equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies to help them amass arsenals of combat-ready weaponry..." Kara Dansky said in a CNN article.

According to the Police Officer Body-Worn Cameras: Assessing the Evidence by Michael D. White, purchasing the cameras would cost from $800 to $1,000 per camera. Looking at police departments that have deployed body cameras, they have chosen to obtain them from either Vievu or Taser International. The Vievu L3, the model that some departments get, does qualify to the range the report mentioned costing $899.95, but the Taser models fall short from that category; the Taser Axon Flex costs $599 and the Taser Axon Body costs $399. If the campus sheriffs department invests in 20 cameras, they will have to pay from $8,000 to $18,000.

With the federal funding law enforcement receives, purchasing body-worn cameras for each officer should be a high priority to ensure that officers are held accountable for excessive force or violent behavior. Given the results of the Rialto Police Department's study, Valley College students should consider demanding the campus Sheriffs Department to wear body cameras to monitor police conduct.

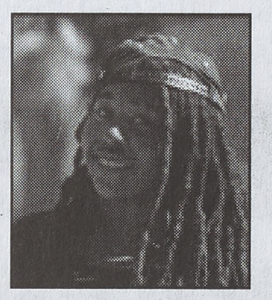


STOCK PHOTO / WEBSITE
PICTURES - Cameras will help Valley College Sherriffs perfrom thier jobs.

CampusView

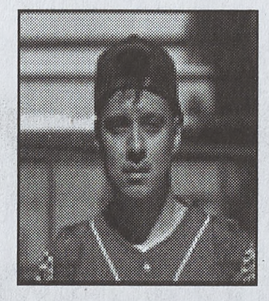
Are the increased Metro prices going to affect Monarchs daily trips to Valley College?

PHOTOS BY JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR



"It may not affect the number of students who attend, but it may affect the times they arrive as the increase in price will make them choose alternate transportation."

- Kai Briggs/Undeclared



"Yes. It is hard to get jobs and people can barely afford paying their bills."

-Eric Flores/Undeclared

"Yes, especially those students that work full time and don't have time to work."

-Cesar Hernandez/Radiologic Sciences

"Yes, the increased Metro prices are going to affect the amount of students who use the Metro on a daily basis."

- Marcus Tottress/Criminal Law Majo

VALLEY LIFE

STOCK PHOTO / WEBSITE

SUCCESS - STARS drives Monarchs to academic succes to tranfer to a four-year university.

STARS COMMITTEE SET FALL AGENDA

■ Valley College STARS hope to maintain helpful workshops and search for motivating guest speakers.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

To begin the semester, the Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students (STARS) Committee held a meeting on Thursday at the library to discuss the steps they will take to continue supporting student academic achievement.

The committee began by reviewing their goals from the previous year. They concluded that they had given students the necessary tools to succeed by providing them with key information about college as well as holding multiple workshops. However, they also recognized that there is always room for improvement and are working on ways to get more students involved.

"Students are encouraged to come to meetings because they offer a significant perspective," Deborah Kaye, Valley College Professional Development Director and STARS Committee Chair said.

STARS has hosted a variety of events in the past. They have arranged seminars meant to educate students on balancing work and school and even group discussions where a panel of students share their secrets to success.

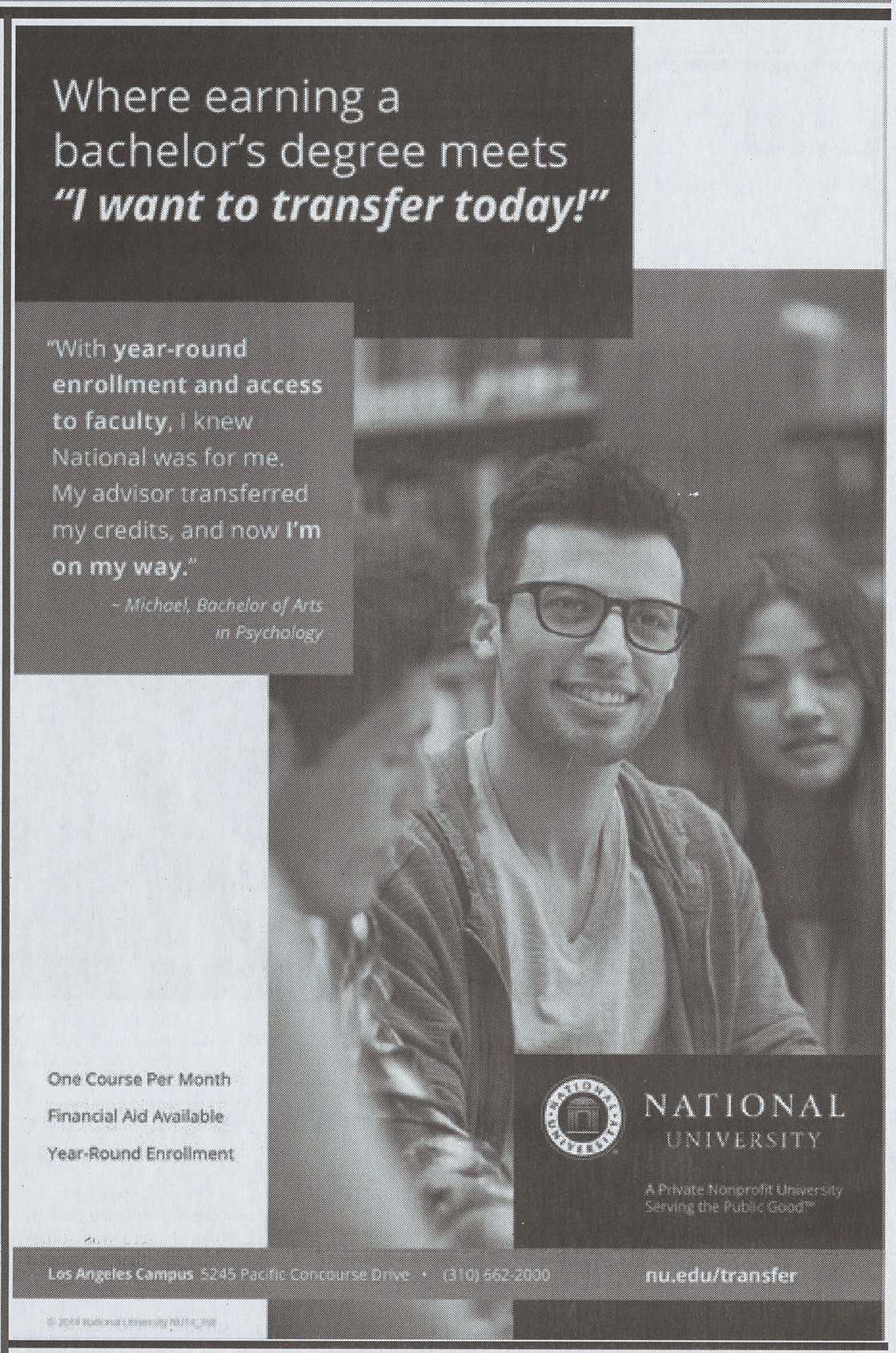
This fall, the STARS program will be holding similar events. "We really want to focus on faculty engaging in conversation with students," Kaye said. "Our event, 'Let's Do Lunch' last semester, for example, had a really good turn out, so we're looking forward to doing that again."

"Let's Do Lunch" is typically held at the end of the semester, and students have the opportunity to connect with Valley College professors and faculty. It serves as a great networking tool.

The committee has begun setting possible dates for events and workshops this semester. It was granted $750 by the Associated Student Union (ASU) and intends on utilizing the money as a measure to sway guest speakers to come to Valley.

"It's very difficult to get speakers to come on campus without any compensation, and rightfully so, but hopefully the money will be of some help," Jonathan Saxon, Valley History professor and STARS Committee Member said.

STARS is also reaching out to former Monarchs and media contacts who might be willing to donate about an hour of their time to come speak to students. If students wish to voice any concerns or want to become involved with STARS' efforts, they may contact Deborah Kaye at 818-947-2724 or attend the next meeting, which will be held on Oct. 2 at the Library & Academic Resource Center in room 200.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Fall Performing Arts lineup

■ Preparation for a semester full of music and drama has begun this week.

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's music and theater departments have a number of events planned for the next few months, including two plays and multiple concerts.

The theater department will be presenting Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? next month. The drama, written by Edward Albee, exploded on Broadway in 1962 and is making its way to LAVC's Horseshoe Theater. Twenty-nine-year-old student director Ben Hernandez took on the project this semester after taking directing classes here at Valley.

"I am definitely feeling the pressure, but it is less overwhelming and more exhilarating," said Hernandez. "It's an opportunity that hasn't been offered to a student before. So I'm working hard to make sure they made the right choice."

Theater department faculty chose Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? as an opportunity for students to direct. Hernandez was a nursing major and has recently switched to theater; his goal is to transfer to CalArts to further study directing. Kiki Bennet, Matthew McLaughlin, Michael James and Amy Lynn Perea are some of the incredible cast in the drama.

"All of them [are] acting students here at Valley, and they are going to put on an amazing show" said Hernandez.

Opening night is on Friday Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. and performances will continue on Oct. 18, 24 and 25. Tickets are $12 in advance and $15 at the door.

Auditions for In the Heights, the musical directed by associate professor Cathy Susan Pyles, were held in the theater building on Sept. 5 and 6, and an additional audition was also held on Sept. 8. The musical is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations.

The cast list was posted on Tuesday in the theater building and rehearsals start Monday Sept. 16. For more information, check out the theater building callboard or visit lavctheater.com. Students can purchase tickets to either production on brownpapertickets.com.

The first Valley Symphony Orchestra concert of the semester will be on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater. Performances will include works by Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn. General admission tickets are $25 and Monarchs can purchase them for $12 in advance and $15 at the door. For a full list of Fall 2014 musical performances at Valley, visit lavc.edu/music.

JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Craft Service - Cast members of "In the Heights" relaxing at Theater Department ice cream social, On

SPORTS

Lady Monarchs crush Knights

■ **Valley College thrashes San Diego City College 4-0 at home to start the season.**

BY JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On a sunny Friday afternoon the Lady Monarchs got their 2014 season off with a dominating win over San Diego City College at Valley College, a large part due to their freshmen.

"Even with this 4-0 victory, I still think we can get better," Valley College's Coach Greg Venger said after Lady Monarchs victory in their season and home opener." This is just the beginning of this team, there is much more to come; it really is exciting when you think about how good this team can be."

It only took 18 minutes into the match for the green shirts to take a 1-0 lead over the Knights. Freshman Riley Laser started her collegiate career with a beautiful chip shot over San Diego keeper Charlotte Guerrero. The play began with a free kick located just outside the right side of the PK box; freshman midfielder Genesis Cruz took the set piece.

Cruz placed the ball in the heart of the penalty box. Laser ran pass the left post as the ball bounced on the ground, she gathered her footing to send the ball into the roof of the net. The Lady Monarchs took the well-deserved lead after producing multiple dangerous goal-scoring opportunities.

Valley continued their pressure after taking the lead, the green shirts produced three more chances and got two shots on target, but Guerrero stood her ground making two saves to keep the Monarchs to a 1-0 lead going into the break.

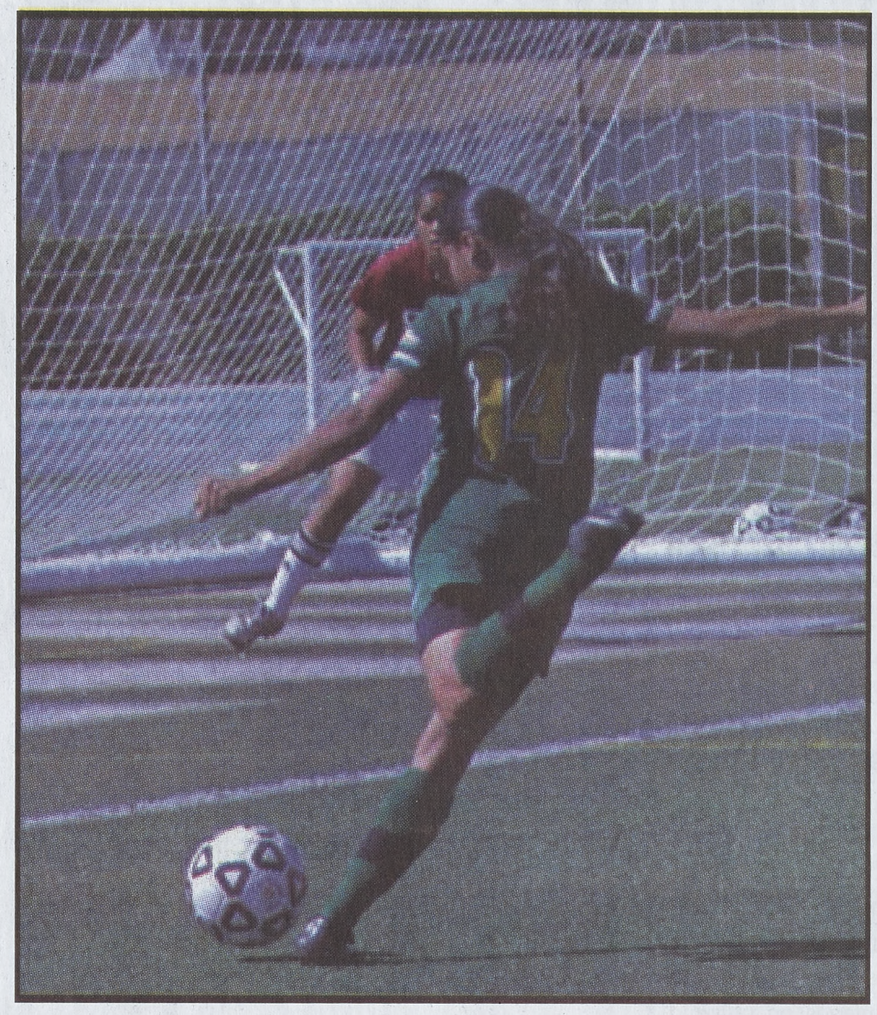
In the second half, Valley's pressure doubled as their superb passing proved too much for the Knights to handle. The Monarchs would end up completing 70 percent of their passes in the match, compared to San Diego's 45 percent. The Monarchs defense suffocated the Knights offense for nearly the entire 90 minutes.

The Monarchs offense thrived of their defense solid play, producing shots an eight were on target. No matter what the ladies in green did it seemed the second goal was not coming. After the Knights withstood the Valley barrage, the momentum of the match began to swing towards San Diego's favor. However, Valley's goalie Athena Del Rosario kept the Knights of the scoreboard, and the Monarchs regain momentum by scoring three of the four goals in the final 10 minutes.

Freshman Regan Laser gave Valley a 2-0 lead at the 9 minute of the second half by chipping the ball into the back of the net, while being guarded by two defenders in the PK box. Two minutes later sophomore midfielder Lupe Ramos made it 3-0, by recovering a loose ball inside penalty box, and eluding one defender to create space for her powerful shot. The final goal of the match came in the final seconds, freshman Linda Gonzalez took advantage of a San Diego error inside the penalty box, and she toe poked the ball to make it 4-0.

"You know it was coming," Venger said. "To keep a team like that around for so long with just a 1-0 lead, it will make any team start believing again. Once we scored the second goal it gave us more breathing room and the girls felt more comfortable, and it showed with the pattern of play and the movement of the ball was so much better afterwards."

With Friday's 4-0 victory, the Lady Monarchs start the season 1-0 for the first time since 2007. Now the Monarchs will be looking to go 2-0 in their next home match against Moorpark College on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Monarch Stadium.



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
GOAL - Veteran Monarch midfielder Lupe Ramos winding up for a shot against San Diego City College on Fridays 4-0 victory over San Diego City College at Monarch Stadium.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Monarchs are ready to turn the tide

■ **The Monarchs are looking forward to writing a new chapter in Valley College's women's soccer program history.**

BY JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On the eve of the day that the Lady Monarchs start their 2014 season, they run practice and take their team photo. There is a slight breeze hitting Monarch Field on a Thursday afternoon, the team is all smiles and Coach Greg Venger can't help but be excited for the opener that lies less than 24-hours away.

"I think we have had over 40-practices this off season, and we are just excited," Venger said. "I just can't wait for tomorrow, we (the coaching staff) have seen this team train so hard over the summer and they're ready for this season, not to mention they (the players) are excited to play San Diego tomorrow."

The team currently has 21 players on the roster, and more than half of the squad are freshmen. Even though the majority of this squad is inexperienced, all returning players were starters last year, and Venger will be depending on them to lead Valley this season.

Players coming back this season are: defender Nayely Ruiz, defender/goalkeeper Charlene Parrales, midfielder Lupe Ramos, defender/midfielder Monica Roldan, defender/midfielder Amy Van Leeuwen, and starting goalkeeper Athena Del Rosario. However, for the moment only four of the veterans will be wearing the green shirt tomorrow.

Ruiz will not be able to play because of academic reasons and Parrales is recovering from tearing her ACL at the end of last season; she will not be able to play until the end of September.

"I should be able to play again by the [end] of September, I am hoping," Parrales stated. "I am running and being active, I just have not been medically cleared yet, so that is what I am waiting on."

The Lady Monarchs are stacked all over the field, particularly in the midfield where they currently have 10 players competing for the starting job. Venger wants to play either a 4-4-2 or a 4-3-3 with the main goal of keeping possession of the ball to control the tempo of the game and their attack. The healthy competitive competition within the mids is keeping Venger and the coaching staff anxious to see this team play.

In the back, they have eight defenders and three of them are returning starters. Though the defense is where Valley College fell apart in 2013, allowing 38-goals and letting the opposing teams take at least 2.5-shots per-game. Even with Del Rosario making 53-saves last season and averaging a .768 save percentage, the Monarchs still allowed 9-goals in the final five games. However, Del Rosario believes that the coaching staff scouting in the off season solved the issue of having no depth in the defense.

The red flag to the coaches' off season scouting was not getting a back up goalie. As a result of that, the coaching staff has converted Parrales into a hybrid player that can play both defense and goalie if needed, but the sophomore will not be able to back up the starter until the end of this month if she gets the green light to play again.

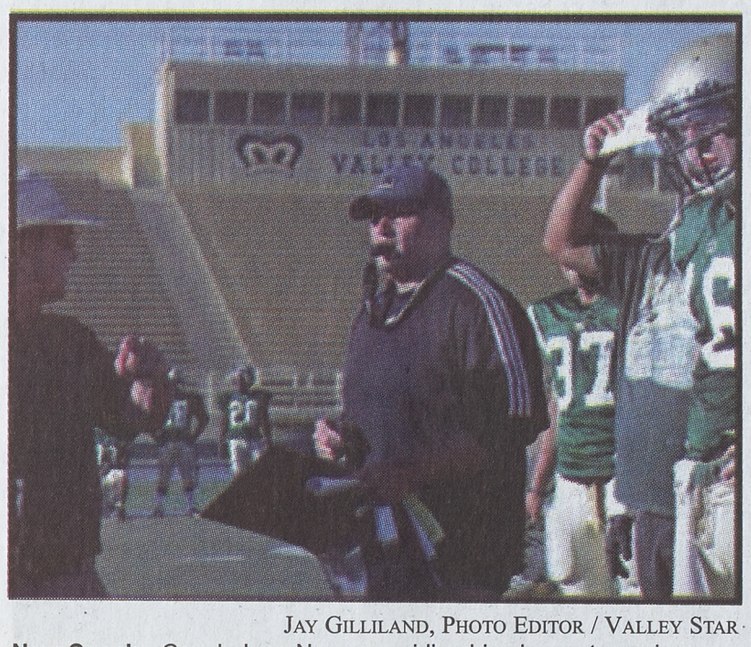
"There is a lot of pressure on me to stay healthy since I am not going to have a back up this season," Del Rosario said about being the only full-time goalie this season. "However, I am up for the challenge, and optimistic that this team will make the playoffs and make history at Valley."

The Lady Monarchs open their 2014 season on Friday at Monarch Field at 2 p.m. against San Diego City College.

FOOTBALL

New coach, new era for Monarchs football

■ **Head Coach Juan Navarro looks to establish a new attitude and effort to revive Monarchs football program.**



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
New Coach - Coach Juan Navarro guiding his players towards a new chapter of Monarch fooball history.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES
SPORTS EDITOR

After a search that lasted six months, Valley College hired former Pierce College Defensive Coordinator, Juan Navarro, in July as the new head football coach.

Navarro's hiring marks the third different head coach in the last three years for Valley. Coaching the Monarchs will be his first head coaching job at the age of 34; he is inheriting a 4-6 Valley team that he has only been able to become acclimated with just two months before the start of the season.

"Ideally, we'd like to have a guy here in January, but it didn't work out that way," said Valley Athletic Director, Jim Fenwick. "We're trying to teach as fast as we can and move along."

Navarro, an Arleta, CA native, brings over a decade of coaching experience to the Monarch program. His stints include coaching the defensive line and linebackers at his Alma mater, the University of Redlands. He was also a volunteer assistant to the coaching staff at the University of Miami (FL), and most recently prior to Pierce, coaching the defensive line and linebackers at Florida International University.

Despite never being a head coach before, he still brings a copious amount of knowledge of the game to Valley's program. But it's character and mindset that Coach values over 'X's and 'O's.

"It's always very important to understand the Junior College kid and why maybe they weren't able to attend a four-year school immediately out of high school, if talented," said Navarro. "My job is to really establish a mentality and then magnify their athletic ability."

Navarro stressed that the product the players put out on the field will only reflect the type of attitude that is enforced from himself and his staff to help establish and evolve the characters of his guys.

"The goal period is to develop," said Navarro. "Develop them mentally, athletically, and find more ways to develop them academically. Our job is to challenge them consistently and force them to respond with great character."

The fire and excitement that Navarro has brought to the Valley football this summer is very welcoming and refreshing to Fenwick, who is also the offensive coordinator for the team.

"We feel like he was the best fit for Valley College," said Fenwick. "We really enjoy his energy and passion for the kids and helping the kids get through school and to the next level."

The Monarch players have also taken well to Navarro's regime, citing his tough, hard-nosed coaching, as well as his previous coaching at universities as a major benefit for the team going forward.

"He knows what he's doing and is strict, but in the most positive way," said defensive tackle Billy Arnold. "He's bringing a university level experience down to a junior college level and that alone, especially in our league, can change this program dramatically."

In just a short amount of time, Coach Navarro instilled a message and motto to his team with the expectation that it translates to individual and team success.

"Be an ACE, that's our motto," said Navarro. "Being an ACE and having an ACE mentality is to have a positive attitude, great character, and relentless effort. That's what we want to establish."

Calender

Football:
Saturday, Sept. 13 vs. Compton Tartars @ Valley 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 20 vs. Mt. San Jancito Eagles @ Glendale 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer:
Thursday, Sept. 11 vs Moorpark College @ Valley 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16 vs Pierce College @ Pierce 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 vs Oxnard College @ Valley 6 p.m.

Men's Water Polo:
Thursday, Sept. 18 vs American River College @ Cuesta TBA
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 19-20, Cuesta Tournament @TBA, TBA.